

**NASA'S SUN-EARTH CONNECTION  
EDUCATION FORUM  
Presents**

**SUN-EARTH DAY 2004:  
VENUS TRANSIT**

<http://sunearth.gsfc.nasa.gov/sunearthday>

Not since 1889 have the inhabitants of Earth been treated to this rare astronomical spectacle. For 6 hours on June 8, 2004, the planet Venus will slide across the face of the sun, reminding us that some parts of the universe work with clockwork regularity. By the late 1800's, the general public was also caught up in the excitement of viewing the Transit from virtually every major city in the hemisphere. All that was needed was smoked glass to observe the surprisingly large black disk of Venus slide steadily westwards across the solar disk. Amateur astronomers in New York set up telescopes on street corners and charged passers-by 10 cents a peep, with long lines snaking around the block filled with eager observers. On June 8, 2004 North America and parts of South America will be treated to the last hour of the first Venus Transit in 122 years. No human alive has ever seen it. As the sun rises on that Tuesday morning, Venus will move the remaining 1/4 of its trajectory across the solar disk and exit at 7:30 AM as seen from most eastern seaboard locations.

To prepare you for this historic event, be sure to visit the new Sun-Earth Day website to register for your free educational packet.

On-line Programs will include:

- A real-time webcast of the entire Transit starting at 1 AM (EDT) Tuesday and ending 7:30 AM (EDT)
- Online archives of Transit images taken by amateur and professional telescopes from across the globe
- Library of Congress and other historical documents from past transits
- Classroom math, geometry, reading and science activities to study the Transit and the scale of the solar system and universe based on the real-time data
- 'Ask the Scientist' chat rooms and email opportunities

Educational activities will incorporate themes such as:

- Venus the Twin Planet
- The Solar-Planetary Connection
- Student Parallax Observations
- Educational Activities
- Data Archive
- Setting the Scale of the Solar System
- Exoplanet Research

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